

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING OF NORTH/SOUTH GROUP

1. SUMMARY: NORTH/ SOUTH GROUP MET AS SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 10 FOR ROUTINE HALF-DAY SESSION. EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO INDICATION WHETHER CIEC WOULD RECONVENE, G-8 MEMBERS OUTLINED POSITIONS THEY PLANNED TO TAKE IN SCHEDULED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION DISCUSSION OF TRANSFER OF RESOURCES AND FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. AT U.S. SUGGESTION, NEITHER SUBSTANCE NOR TACTICS OF DEBT ISSUE WERE DISCUSSED. HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FROM FOCUSING SOLE ATTENTION ON DEBT ISSUES, GIVE IMPORTANCE OF OTHER TRANSFER OF RESOURCE ISSUE, AND AGRICULTURAL TOPICS. CHAIRMAN ROBERT INVITED GROUP TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS AFFECTING LONGER-TERM NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS AT FUTURE MEETINGS IN LINE WITH ITS ORIGINAL MANDATE. HE BROACHED POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BEFORE NEXT TDB SESSION. MEMBERS DID NOT COMMENT ON HIS PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY

2. TRANSFER OF RESOURCES: POSITIONS BRIEFLY OUTLINED

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ON TRANSFER OF RESOURCE AND FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL

ISSUES WERE NOT NEW. IN DISCUSSING RESOURCE TRANSFER ISSUES, MOST DELS REFERRED TO GROUP B DRAFT RESOLUTION PREPARED IN NAIROBI WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN GREATER DEPTH BY DAC ON PREVIOUS DAY. EC REPORTED BRUSSELS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION GROUP HAD ACCEPTED DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH ADDITION OF WORD "SUBSTANTIALLY" REFERRING TO ODA INCREASES AND OTHER MINOR CHANGES. SWEDEN AND CANADA INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO GO FURTHER THAN DRAFT RESOLUTION GOES, WHILE NEW ZEALAND AND FINLAND EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT USING RESOLUTION AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION IN CIEC SINCE NOT ALL GROUP B MEMBERS COULD ACCEPT IT IN FULL. USDEL OUTLINED CONCEPTS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCORPORATED IN ANY FINAL CONSENSUS DOCUMENT ISSUED BY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. JAPANESE NOTED HIGH-LEVEL POLICY REVIEW OF ODA VOLUME AND TERMS WAS STILL UNDERWAY IN TOKYO.

3. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: USDEL ALSO OUTLINED POINTS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CONSENSUS ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. ECDEL NOTED EC COMMISSION DRAFT ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES . HAD NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED IN BRUSSELS BUT STRESSED THAT EC POSITIONS WOULD BE FORWARD-LOOKING. SWEDICH DEL SAID THEY WOULD SUGGEST IMPROVING IFI AGRICULTURAL LENDING CRITERIA, 500,000 TON EMERGENCY GRAIN RESERVE AND FORWARD PLANNING OF FOOD AID. AUSTRALIAN DEL SUPPORTED IMPROVING LENDING CONDITIONS, MORE RESEARCH, AND RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE SECTOR'S ROLE IN LDC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. SWITZERLAND SUGGESTED COMMISSION TRY TO DEVELOP AGREED PRINCIPLES FOR LDC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION WITH DC'S. MOST AGREED THAT IF POSSIBLE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GIVE IFAD ANOTHER PUSH IN DEVELOPMEHT COMMISSION. TURNER

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